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1947

Development (1947) Department.

Ms SERIES.

G.O. No. 5584

Dated 3-12-47

[Despatch Abstract.]

LABOUR: PREPARATORY ASIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ~~XXX~~ I.L.O-
PAPERS RECORDED.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Department of Labour.

No.L.C.35(8) Dated New Delhi, the 20th August 1947.

From

Rai Bahadur H.Khanna,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Development Department,
Madras.

Sir,

Subject: - Preparatory Asian Regional Labour Conference during October - November 1947.

In continuation of this Department letter No. LC.35(8), dated the 30th July 1947, I am directed to enclose herewith for favour of comments five copies of the Report on item II-Labour Policy in General including the Enforcement of Labour Measures of the Agenda of the Conference mentioned above.

2. I am to request that the Government of India may be informed by which date the comments of the Provincial Government on all the Reports forwarded to them may be expected.

An early reply is requested.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Sd /-
(H.Khanna.)
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

Endorsement No.82892 PIV/47-2, dated 2.9.42.

Referred to the Commissioner of Labour for very urgent remarks. He is requested to report in advance when his comments may be expected.

Sd/-xxxxxx,
2.9.47.

To the Commissioner of Labour.

Copy of letter No.LC-35(8) dated 30th July 1947 from Deputy Secretary to the Government of India to All Provincial Governments.

Subject: - Preparatory Asian Regional Conference to be held in New Delhi.

As provincial Governments may be aware the Preparatory Asian Regional Conference would be held in New Delhi from the 27th October to 7th November next. The Agenda of the Conference will be as follows:-

Contd.

1. Problems of Social Security.

2. Labour Policy in general, including the enforcement of labour measure.

3. Programme of action over a period of years for the enforcement of social standards embodied in the Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the International Labour Conference, but not yet ratified or accepted by the countries concerned.

4. The General economic background of social policy, including problems of indutrialisation.

5. Director-General's Report which will deal, among other matters, with the question of the co-ordination of regional activities with the general activities of the International Labour Organisation.

2. On each of these subjects a report will be prepared by the International Labour Office and the suggestions made in the Report will be the starting points for discussion. The International Labour Office has sent its Reports on items 1 and 3. Five copies of each of these reports are enclosed herewith. Reports on other subjects will be sent as and when received. The points suggested for discussion will be found in Chapter VII of the Report on problems of Social Security and in the last Chapter of the report on Labour Policy in general including the enforcement of labour measures. The Indian delegation should present an integrated view on the problems coming up for discussion, so that the decisions of Conference may be moulded in a manner acceptable to Indian opinion. With a view to deciding the line of action to be taken by the Government delegation, I am to invite the views of Provincial Governments on the subjects set out for discussion in general and on such subjects as, in their opinion, are suitable for implementation in this country and therefore, desired to be examined further. It is requested that replies may be sent so as to reach this Department not later than the 1st of September so as to enable this Department to summarise the views of the various Provincial Governments and submit tentative conclusions for the consideration of the Labour Ministers' Confemnce which will be held shortly before the Asian Regional Conference.

/True copy/

Development Department.

Letter No.82892 PIV/47- dated 22-10-1947.

To

The Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Labour, New Delhi.

Sir,

Subject : - Asian Regional Labour Conference - October November 1947.

Reference:- Your letter No.LG35(8) dated 30-7-1947. and Your Letter No.dated 20-8-1947.

I am directed to forward the following comments of the Government of Madras on the points for discussion in regard to medical care in the report on problems of social security.

Contd.

POINT 5. Provision of Medical care on the basis of free public service: - Under the Medical and Public Health post war plans of this Government the aim is to provide for adequate medical are and public health service for the whole population on the basis of a public service. For the reasons (a) to (c) mentioned under this point, the method of reliving the state's financial burden by a social insurance scheme will for a long time be quite unworkable. As long as a very large population enjoys an income below subsistance level, the proceeds of any social insurance scheme will be comparatively small and the state will have to bear the burden of financing the services for this large group. For the present this Government will have to be satisfied with the impaementation of their post war plans as far as financial resources will permit.

POINT 6: Need for unified Medical and Public Health Service:- It is not the intention of the Government of Madras to have a unified service for medical and public health care as suggested by the Bhore Committee. The plans of this Government envisage the rendering of medical and public health services by separate Government organisations, though at the same centres. The service will be integrated or combined only in the sense that they will emanate from the same contres viz. primary village centres and group centres, where there will be complete coordination . But the agency through which the services will be rendere will be the officers and staff of the medical service on the one hand and of the Public Health Service on the other. There will be coordinationat the top through the Surgeon General and the Director of Public Health who will act in mutual consultation, the Surgeon General acting in an advisory capacity also in improtant matters on the preventive side.

POINT 7: and 8 : - The Government of Madras consider that with the p esent proposals for increased taxation to make up the loss in revenue due to the programme of prohibition, the imposition of further special health tax will be cut of question for a long time.to come.

Even if it were p acticable to levy a special tax in particular rich areas to develop medical and public health facilities in these areas with the help of this tax the measure is likely to meet with the criticism that state relief shouldbe made available to the poorer areas and in places where it is most needed rather than in richer areas. The plans of this Government give first priority to areas which need facilities most and it is only after an all round standard is attained it is proposed to improve it in particular areas.

POINT 9: Provision of medical facilities in urban areas by means of social insurance:- The Government consider that the experiment of the Health Insurance Scheme of Industrial workers may be extended in due course to other groups of wage earners, though the question of finance must regard progress.

POINT 10: Agency for rendering medical aid: - The Government of Madras are of the view that the ownership and administration of medical care facilities should vest in the Public Medical Service as this is a more convenient arrangement and will avoid duplication of services.

POINTS 11 to 13: The plans and ideas of this Government fit in almost entirely with what is contemplated under these points.

I am to add that further comments, if any, will be made at the Conference

Your Obedient Servant.
Sd/-
22-10-1947.

Government of India,

MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

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No.LC-35(30) Dated New Delhi, the 19th November 1947.

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From

Rai Sahib S.C.Aggarwar,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

To

1. The Governments of Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Bombay Central Provinces, Madras, Origsa, East Punjab, United Provinces, Mysore, Travancore, Gwalior, Indore Baroda, Rewa, Nawanagar and Patiala.

2. All India Organisation of Industiral Employers, New Delhi.

3. Employers Federation of India, Bombay.

4. All India Trade Union Congress, Bombay.

Sir,

I am directed to enclose 2 copies of the speech delivered by the Hon'ble Shri Jagjivan Ram as the President of the Asian Regional Labour Conference held in New Delhi from the 27th October to the 8th November 1947 and 3 copies of a Souvenir Volume, which was prepared on the occasion of the Conference.

I have etc.,

(Sd/- S.C.Aggarwar)
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

Copy with .....copies of the Hon'ble Shri Jagjivan Ram's speech and.....copies of "labour in India" forwarded to:- All Ministries of the Government of India; Constituent Assembly; Cabinet Secretariat; Chief Adviser of Factories; Chief Labour Commissioner; Director, Labour Bureau, Simla; Secretary, Federal Public Service Commission; National Savings Bureau; Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor General; Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor General; Indian Federation of Labour and the all India National Trade Union Congress.

Memo No. 82892 PIV/47-1

Subject: Labour - Preparatory Asian Regional Conference .

A copy of the speech delivered by the Hon'ble Shri Jagjivan Ram as the President of the Asian Regional Labour Conference and a copy of the Souvenir Volume which was prepared on the occasion of the Conference are sent to the Commissioner of Labour.

Sd/-xxxxxx,
30-11.47-

To the Commissioner of Labour.

Development Department.

Summary.

The file relates to the Preparatory Asian Regional Conference organised by the International Labour office whichwil be held in New Delhi from the 27th October to 7th November 1947. Joint Secretary, Development has been nominated as the Adviser by this Government to attend the Conference. The subjects on th agenda are:

1. Problems of Social Security;
2. Labour Policy in general, including the encorcement of labour measures.
3. Programme of action over a period of years for the enforcement of social standards embodied in the Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the International Labour Conference, but not yet ratified or accepted by the countries concerned;
4. The General economic background of social policy, including problems of indutrialisation;
5. Director-General's report which will deal, among other matter, with the question of the co-ordination of regional activities with the general activities of the International labour Organisation.

2. The Government of India have forwarde Reports prepared by the I.L.O on subjects 1- to 3 and have invited the views of this Government on the subjects set out for discussion in general and particularly on these which needs further examination as being suitable for implementation in the Country Chapter VIII of the Report on Social Policy in General" and Chapter VII of the "Report on Problems of Social Security" of Labour whose remarks were invited on those reports has stated that he has no comments to make.

The report on Labour Policy and enforcement of Labour measures has taken special note of the importance of agriculture in the ecnomies of Asian Countries and has suggested 11 Principl questions (PP 333-334 of the Report) which are to be considered in eleborating the labour policy of Asian Countries.

In the Report on social Security Chapter IV seems to be the most important part. It indicates the main lines on which the problems of social security can be tackeled in Asian Countries, which are predominantly agricultural and where majori of workers cannot afford to contribute towards social insurance It is stated that social insurance is essential for providing income security for wage earners and for this purpose the report prefers the development of social insurance as a whole in conformity with a pre-conceived plan rather than gradual evolution of independent branches of social insurance. The report also out-lines the gradual development of public medical care service, freely available to those who need it.

The department may agree with the Commissioner that no special remarks are called for on these reports. Pending detailed discussions at the Conference, it does not appear neces sary to commit this Government to any definite views in advance in so far as question of labour policy and social insurance are concerned. We have already forwarded to the Government of India a note on the Labour programme of this Government. In regard to the points which relate to Medical care, Education and Public Health Department have indicated in their note on page 8-10 above their views with reference to their Post War Medical and Public Health Schemes. The note of Joint Secretary Education and Public Health on page 7-10 above may be read. His REmarks are summarised below:-

Contd.

Point 5- Provision of Medical care on the basis of free Public Service:- Under the Medical and Public Health Post-War plans the aim of the Government is to provide for adequate medical care and Public Health services for the whole population on the basis of a public service. Education and Public Health consider that so long as a very large proportion of the population get an income below subsistence level the proceeds of a social insurance scheme will be comparatively small and the state willtherefore have to bear the burden of financing medical services for this large group of people. For the present this Province will have to be satisfied with the implementation of this Post War plans so far as its financial resources will permit.

Point 6:- Need for unified Medical and Public Health Services.: - Education and Public Health are not in complete agreement with the idea that it is desirable and feasible to have a unified service for medical and public health care, as the present plan of Government is to have separate organisation for reddering medical and public health services. In the note at 'M' on page 7-8 above, Education and Public Health have explained that though medical and Public Health services will be rendered through different agencies necessary coordination of their work will be ensured.

POINTS 7 and 8:- Levy of a special tax to facilitate extention of medical and public health service:- Education and Public Health consider that with the present proposals for increased taxation to make up the loss in revenue due to the programme of prohibition, the question of imposing further special health tax may be quite out of the question for a long time to come. This Department may perhaps agree.

Point 9 :- Provision of medical facilities in urban areas by means of social insurance.- A scheme of health insurance, which will provide for industrial workers reasonable medical, surgical and obstetric treatment is already under the consideration of the Government of India in their Health Insurance Bill. Education and Public Health is of the view that this that this scheme may be extended in due course to other groups of wage earners in urban ar as but that the question of finance rust retard progress. We have already informed the Government of India that the Health Insurance Bill should provide for later extention of the Scheme to larger groups than at present contemplated.

Point 10- Agency for rendering medical care:- Under the Health Insurance Scheme referred to above, Provincial Government have to provide the medical care facilities. As this is a more convenient arrangement nd will avoid duplication of services, Education and Public Health prefer that the ownership and administration of medical care facilities should vest in the Public medical care service rather than in the insurance institution of wage earners. This Department may agree.

Point 11 to 13:- Education and Public Health Department have stated that their plans and ideas fit in almost entirely with what is contemplated under these poin s for discussion. The Govern ment may accept these points.

The I.L6 Reports which is dealt with above was received in this Department from the Gover ment of India on 25-9-47 and the views of the Education and Public Health Department were made available on 15-10-47. It may not be quite useful to communicate the views of this Governmentto the overnment of India at this late stage. These matters are for discussion at the Conference and it does not seem necessary to formulate final views of Governmentnow . As Joint Secretary Development is himself attending the Conferense, perhaps it is sufficient if he represents the views of this Government at the time of discussion .

Contd.

Reports on items 4 & 5 of the agenda have not yet been received.

Education and Public Health have asked for circulation of the file to H.M (P.H.) also. The case may therefore be submitted to Hon'ble Minister (Food) and Hon'ble Minister (Public Health).

We may as well communicate the above views to India and add that further comments will be made at the conference.

Sd/-Hon'ble Minister (Food)
19-10-1947.

Sd/- Hon'ble Minister (Public Health)

To A.S.

Draft letter to the Government of India is submitted below for approval. After issue the file may be submitted to Joint Secretary for reference at the conference.

Sd/-xxxxx,
22-10-47.

[Issued as letter No.82892 PIV/47- dated 23-10-47_7
From the Government of India, Ministry of Labour
No.L.C.35(30). dated 19-11-1947.

Please see the letter of the Government of India on page 67-68 c.f. Copies of the books received from the Government of India may be furnished to the Commissioner of Labour. Draft Office Memorandum is submitted on p ge 68 c.f.

No further action is called for in this file The papers may be recorded.

G.O.Ms.No.5584, dated 3-12-1947.

R e c o r d e d .

Sd/-xxxxxx,
30-11-47.

Subject:-

Labour - Preparatory Asian Regional Conference of the Internation Labour Office - Papers Recorded.

/True copy/

S. Jayaraccha
19.5

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

NG.

N.D.
14/9/54